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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part III)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahbub KABIR (Bangladesh)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 166 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/48/827 and Add.1.

2. At its 72nd and 74th meetings, on 11 and 19 July 1994, the Fifth Committee considered the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia".

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/48/L.79

3. At the 74th meeting on 19 July 1994 the representative of Portugal introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.79.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.79 without a vote (see para. 6).

5. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/48/SR.72 and 74).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 856 (1993) of 10 August 1993, by which the Council welcomed the signing under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States, on 25 July 1993, at Cotonou, Benin, of a peace agreement between the Liberian parties and approved the dispatch by the Secretary-General to Liberia of an advance team of thirty military observers to participate in the work of the joint Cease-fire Monitoring Committee for a period of three months,

Bearing in mind also that the Security Council, by its resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993, established the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia under its authority and under the direction of the Secretary-General through his Special Representative for a period of seven months,

Bearing in mind further that the Security Council, by its resolution 911 (1994) of 21 April 1994, decided to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission until 22 October 1994,

Recalling its decision 48/478 of 23 December 1993 and its resolution 48/247 of 5 April 1994 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

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1/ A/48/592/Add.1.

2/ A/48/960.

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Liberian peace process by certain Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of assessed contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia as at 8 July 1994, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 21,988,642 United States dollars;

2. Expresses concern about the deteriorating financial situation with regard to peace-keeping activities owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments, particularly Member States in arrears;

3. Reaffirms the importance of the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as an advisory body to the General Assembly in the budget process;

4. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, 2/ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that all United Nations activities related to the Observer Mission, including the upcoming elections, are administered in a coordinated fashion with a maximum of efficiency and economy and, in particular, to implement fully the economy, financial and efficiency measures to be approved during the resumed forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with the relevant mandates of the Security Council;

6. Urges those Member States that have not paid their assessed contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia to do so promptly and in full;

7. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Observer Mission in an additional amount of 9,922,700 dollars gross (9,449,300 dollars net) for the period from 22 April to 22 October 1994;

8. Decides in the light of the observations contained in paragraph 17 of the report of the Advisory Committee, 2/ to consider the cost estimates for the liquidation phase of the Observer Mission during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

9. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly.